

THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English

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Bolton belts out the hits for opening night of the inaugural Aruba Music Explosion



Bolton Belts it out



Minister Oduber and wife



Bonaire commissioner of tourism with Ronella and husband Elvis

His trademark long locks may be shorn, but this did not diminish the strength of the popular balladeer who dominated the Billboard charts in the late 80's and early 90's and the stage of the Piedra Plat Entertainment Center on Thursday evening for the opening concert of the 3-day Aruba Music Explosion.

The Michael Bolton magic was still going strong for tables full of swooning female fans in the front row platinum section, and screams and cries of "We love you Michael" greeted his charismatic renditions of favorites hits such as "I Said I Loved you but I Lied." He took no-

tice of these particularly vocal admirers, often singing

directly to them, for a thrill they will never forget. The program was a parade of the hits that established Bolton as a chart-topping recording star and performer, and the audience ate it up.

Grammy and American Music Award winner Bolton has assumed a sleek, stylish look on stage very suited to the elegantly rendered love songs interspersed with some of the harder rock of his early "Blackjack" days; a nice mix of music under tropical skies that was a great way to open this 3-day music fest.

Continued on page 5



First Cochlear implants on Aruba take place



Prime Minister with Quota Club President, Dr. Stokroos, FEPO and yellow cross equipment suppliers



far left, Dr. Stokroos, Dr. Cabenda, Lucas Lehning, Olga Thomas, Age van Dijk

During the "Shattered Silence" Week initiative from the Aruba chapter of Quota International, 7 historic operations took place; the first cochlear implants were done on severely hearing impaired youngsters ranging in age from 3 to 9 years old over two days by a CI team from Holland.

The establishment of this new procedure was initiated by Aruban Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist, Dr. Steve Cabenda, and performed by Dr. Robert Stokroos of Maastricht Medical School, Auditory Division.

Quota International President Maria Gonzalez and members of the service club welcomed Aruba's Prime Mi-

nister Mike Eman to meet the key parties involved in this important procedure to become a part of the island's medical solutions during a brief lecture and reception conducted on Thursday evening, September 22, at the University of Aruba.

Representing local organizations involved were Olga Thomas-Vesteeg, Director of FEPO, the foundation for the hearing impaired, and Gino Goeloe, Director of the White/Yellow Cross, which in 2007 began testing infants for hearing impairment within a week after birth. Aruba maintains a special school-Scucha Nos "Listen to Us" for hearing impaired children.

Continued on page 3

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Quartet calls Israel, Palestinians back to the table

UNITED NATIONS, (AFP) - The United States and other powers called Friday for the Palestinians and Israel to resume direct peace talks within a month and commit to seeking a deal by the end of 2012.

The Quartet of the United States, Russia, the European Union and the United Nations acted after Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas formally submitted his request to the United Nations for Palestine to be admitted as a full member.

The United States has vowed to veto the unilateral bid at the UN Security Council, arguing that the resumption of direct negotiations between Israel and the Pales-

tinians is the only real path to peace and statehood.

Direct talks stalled in September 2010 when Israel failed to renew a partial freeze on settlement construction in the occupied West Bank, but the Quartet urged both sides Friday to return to the table and plotted out a path forward.

"We urge both parties to take advantage of this opportunity to get back to talks," US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told reporters on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

"The Quartet proposal represents the firm conviction of the international community that a just and lasting peace can only come through negotiations between the parties," she said, alluding to US oppo-

sition to the Palestinian bid.

Both Israel and the Palestinians said they were studying the Quartet proposals.

Announcing the Quartet statement, which followed marathon talks in New York, EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton said "if ever there was a time to resolve this conflict it is now."

It is now because Israel worries about its security, because the people of Palestine have waited long for their country," she told reporters.

The statement by the Quartet, whose envoys have been meeting intensively all week, emerged following talks involving Clinton, Ashton, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

Kadhafi daughter says father is well and fighting

NICOSIA, September 23, 2011 (AFP) - Aisha Kadhafi, daughter of the ousted Libyan leader, said Friday that her father was well and fighting on the ground, as she attacked the country's new rulers and called them "traitors".

"Remain reassured, your great leader is doing well. He carries weapons and is fighting on the fronts," she said in a telephone message aired by Syria-based Arrai television, which regularly broadcasts comments from Kadhafi or his family members.

"You can be proud of your leader," she said addressing the "resistant people" of Libya.

Aisha Kadhafi, who fled to Algeria with her mother and two brothers late last month, called on the people to "rise" against the new rulers, saying members of the National Transitional Council were "traitors" who have broken their oath of

allegiance" toward Kadhafi.

She warned Libyans that "those who have betrayed their allegiance could do the same with you".

Kadhafi's wife Safiya, two sons Mohammed and Hannibal and daughter Aisha escaped to Algeria on August 29. Algeria said it had allowed them in on "humanitarian grounds".

When rebel fighters stormed and captured Kadhafi's Bab al-Aziziya headquarters on August 23, they found no trace of the strongman, who has since made several broadcasts claiming he is still in Libya.

Reports also emerged that he may be in the south.

Abaaj had said that Kadhafi "is helped by Nigerian and Chadian mercenaries who know the desert routes", added Wardugu, spokesman for the Desert Shield Brigade.

'Moved' pope meets abuse victims in Germany



ERFURT, (AFP) - Pope Benedict XVI met with victims of sexual abuse by Catholic clergy Friday on a visit to his native Germany and expressed deep regret for their ordeal, the Vatican said.

"Moved and deeply shaken by the suffering of the victims, the Holy Father expressed his deep compassion and regret over all that was done to them and their families," it said in a statement after the meeting.

He spoke with survivors of molestation by "priests and Church personnel" and later with carers offering them assistance.

The coordinator of the four-day visit, Hans Langendoerfer, told AFP that the evening meeting with victims, three men and two women, had lasted half an hour and was "very, very emotional".

The encounter had been keenly awaited during the 84-

year-old pope's visit to his homeland, which was rocked last year by revelations of widespread abuse over several decades.

"He assured the people present that those in positions of responsibility in the Church are seriously concerned to deal with all crimes of abuse and are committed to the promotion of effective measures for the protection of children and young people," the Vatican statement said.

The head of the Roman Catholic Church told reporters Thursday on his flight to Germany that he sympathised with the tens of thousands who had turned their backs on the Church over the paedophile scandals.

About 9,000 papal opponents later demonstrated in Berlin while the pope addressed parliament in a rally that focused in large part on the molestation scandals.

The German Catholic Church was thrown into turmoil last year as hundreds came forward saying they were abused as minors between the 1950s and the 1980s amid allegations the crimes were swept under the carpet.

Over the past year, large-scale paedophilia scandals have shaken the Catholic Church in a number of countries, including Ireland, Austria, Belgium and the United States.

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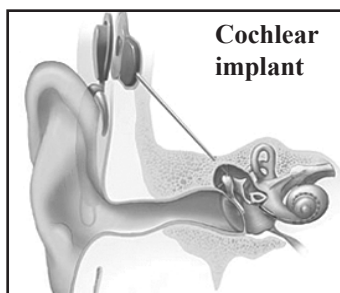
Continued from page 1



Quota President Maria Gonzalez, Project Mgr Ivy Simon and PM

Nathaly Harms-Ellis was the project coordinator, collecting the information on potential patients, to be evaluated by Dr. Stokroos and his team. Also present for the first operation was Age van Dijk of Veenhuis Medical, which distributes equipment for the hearing impaired to Holland and Aruba, and Lucas Lehning, Senior Regional Manager for MED EL, which manufactures the implanted device.

MED EL implants are considered one of the 3 most successful devices in use today along with Cochlear Americas and Advanced Bionics. Approximately 188,000 people worldwide have received cochlear implants; for the most part from more technologically advance nations because of the prohibitive cost of equipment and the procedure. Aruba's national health insurance, AZV is now deliberating the merits of accepting the CI as an allowable medical cost, and did cover a very small part of these inaugural operations. Doctors and hearing specialists in-



involved acknowledge the earlier the CI takes place, the better the chance of a child developing normal communication skills. Presently it is being funded through FEPO and donations from Quota, which has made hearing issues and preservation one of its banner causes for several years.

Prime Minister Eman thanked Dr. Stokroos and all those involved for the establishment of this vital procedure on Aruba, acknowledging what it means to the island's future and that severely hearing impaired youngsters and their parents can now harbor hope for a viable and successful solution.

by Rosalie Klein

San Nicolaas Barrio Yuwana Morto Being Transformed!

SAN NICOLAS -- The Yuwana Morto barrio in San Nicolaas is getting much more than a simple face-lift, it is being totally transformed. A great deal of work is being done on all fronts to convert this rather desolate and neglected area of San Nicolaas into a vibrant and model barrio. After all the transformation, the residents of this barrio will be proud to live there again. In a matter of weeks they will have the honor of welcoming the Royal Dutch Queen to their barrio. Queen Beatrix will pay this barrio a visit to see the changes and experience something of the vision of Aruba's government.

Last Wednesday the Prime Minister and a group of those involved in the work process came together on the site to see how the work was progressing. Every where people were hard at work trying to complete most of the work in preparation for the visit of the Queen.

The Prime Minister was very pleased to see how the work was progressing. The Yuwana Morto barrio is the first of the barrios to be renovated in the barrio projects. This barrio was chosen to be first simply because it was the most neglected and needy with unfenced homes, streets without sidewalks, without plants and streetlights.

The Yuwana Morto Complex, just like the Pos Chikito Complex and the Jara Complex are replete with homes that



were built without any vision nor concordance with the residents. According to the Prime Minister, the people in these complexes received a house but not a home. A few months ago the government began the process for the renovation of 21 barrios around the island. Basic things such as planting trees, illumination, sidewalks, a fence and a non-asbestos roof will be realized, says Eman.

The change from asbestos to shingle roofs is taking place rapidly. Elmar NV, the electric company, is placing solar panels on all of the new roofs. The electrical outhouses are finished and the electrical connections have been made. Telephone and Internet connections are also being installed in a much more organized fashion.

On each of the roofs in the Yuwana Morto homes a modern solar energy system will be in place. According to Eman, each family will receive a discount on their electric bill. The system being used is very modern. This is a type of vinyl, which will run on the roofs of

these houses. This system is both economical and efficient.

The system being used will generate about 200-kilowatt hours per month of electricity for each home.

Elmar will keep track of this in their calculations. An example of the discount is: someone who pays AFIs.100 he will get a AFIs.25 discount. This has not been accurately calculated. Eman believes that the vinyl probably produces more than 200-kilowatt hours per month, but Elmar still has to pay for their investment of the purchase of the panels and the cost of the installation. This solar system will be implemented in other barrios around the island.

According to Eman, solar energy will be introduced en masse around the entire island in keeping with the vision of modernizing our barrios. The Aruba government is intent on making significant improvements both on the physical, structural aspects of our barrios, but also on the social aspects bringing people closer to each other in the barrios.



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Picking the winners



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"Island business should consider supporting athletic pro-

grams for local children from a very young age," commented

Paseo Herencia General Manager Valerie Pietersz-Camacho

regarding their recent sponsorship of the Infinity Sports baseball team for 5 and 6 year olds. "We shouldn't always wait until they have qualified for the regional or world championships, but get them interested in sports and a healthy lifestyle early on to instill that love of physical activity."

The team of tots bearing the Ultimate Sports logo drew affectionate chuckles from the audience at Paseo Herencia Mall on Thursday evening, September 22, entertaining all with their antics as they drew the winners from a raffle conducted to help them play in an inter-island tournament being conducted in Curacao during the first weekend in October. Coaches Carlos Hernandez and Elgin Kock have high hopes for the mini-league team along with Manager Giovanni Pietersz.

Valerie offered thanks to principal sponsors of the raffle: Paseo Herencia, TGI Friday's, Kristie's Jewels, Interprint, Crown Electronics, Radisson

Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa, and Izone Internet café for donating prizes and services to raise the funds. 5 lucky winners will receive dinners at the Radisson and TGI Friday's along with gift certificates; the grand prize was a weekend stay for two at the luxurious resort.

Team members include: Jayden Pietersz, Kyan Pietersz, Aidan Bello, Jedion Farro, Jaden Kock, Akeem Angela, Jeyvon Siberie, Andres Rojas, Santiago Rojas, Adrian Croes, Frank Booi, Jean Carlos Sjiem Fat and George Bedjhilaire. Paseo Herencia will also provide them all with team tees for their trip to Curacao.

by Rosalie Klein



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Weak Tropical Storm Ophelia heading for the Caribbean

MIAMI - A weakened Tropical Storm Ophelia wobbled across the open Atlantic yesterday and could soon be downgraded to a tropical depression, U.S. forecasters said.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center said Ophelia, sapped by drier air and strong wind shear, upper-level winds that can tear a storm apart, could weaken into a tropical depression later during the weekend.

It posed no apparent threat to land and energy interests in the far-off Gulf of Mexico were unaffected.

Late yesterday, Ophelia was about 635 miles (1,020 km) east-southeast of the Caribbean's Leeward Islands and its top sustained wind speeds had dropped to 40 miles (65 km) per hour, the Miami-based hurricane center said.

"The satellite appearance of Ophelia has continued to degrade and the system is looking less and less like a tropical cyclone," the center said.

It said Ophelia could degenerate into a remnant low within the next two days. But its official forecast had Ophelia clinging, at the very least, to tropical depression status into early next week as it treks across the Caribbean.

Bolton belts out the hits . . .

Continued from page 1



Warming up the audience was a fiery performance by the Aruban group "Flame." Lead singers Luigi, Ruth and Serby were backed by a full 16 piece band and got things started with a Motown medley, then moved on to traditional Salsa, Bachata and Merengue hits that are so popular with local

and Latin audiences.

The music center was stunningly transformed for the opening event, which was followed yesterday evening with Gilberto Santa Rosa and "The Lady of Fire," Grammy-winner Olga Tanon, performing to a packed the stadium. One of Aruba's top bands, Tsunami,

was the opening act.

Tonight will finish with Luis Fonzi, Felipe Pelaez, and Servando and Florentino preceded by iconic island singer and composer Claudius Phillips and Oreó.

by Rosalie Klein

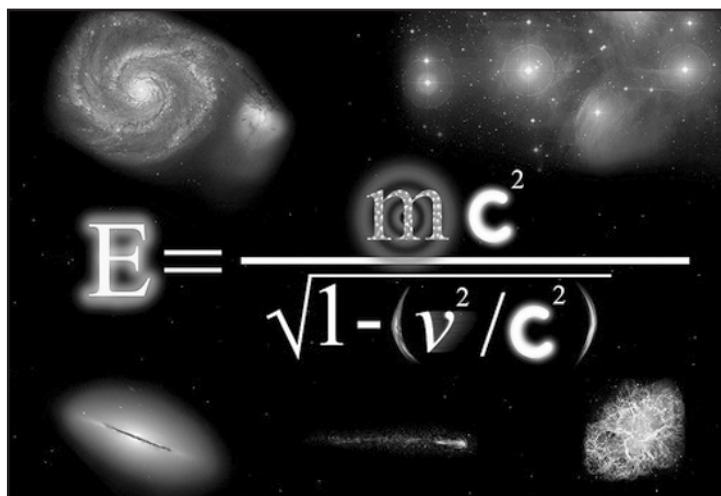
Honored visitors at the Divi Phoenix



Recently a group of loyal visitors of Aruba were honored as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The symbolic honorary title was presented to them in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation for their 10th consecutive year visiting our island. They are Mr. John and Mrs. Darlene Blackmore, Mr. Alan and Mrs. Judy Stuparitz and Mr Nick and Mrs. Susan De Marco. The honorees are all members of the Aruba Divi Phoenix Resort and have been enjoying the island every year since their first visit here. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel of the Aruba Tourism Authority in presence of Mrs. Avril of the Divi Phoenix.

SCI-TECH

Will faster-than-light particles bypass Einstein?



PARIS (AFP) - Physicists reported this this past week that sub-atomic particles called neutrinos can travel faster than light, a finding that -- if verified -- would blast a hole in Einstein's theory of relativity.

In experiments conducted between the European Centre for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Switzerland and a laboratory in Italy, the tiny particles were clocked at 300,006 kilometres per second, about six km/sec faster than the speed of light, the researchers said.

"This result comes as a complete surprise," said physicist Antonio Ereditato, spokesman for the experiment, known as OPERA. "We wanted to measure the speed of neutrinos, but we didn't expect to find anything special."

Scientists spent nearly six months "checking, testing, controlling and rechecking everything" before making an announcement, he said.

Researchers involved in the experiments were cautious in describing its implications, and called on physicists around the world to scrutinise their data, to be made available online overnight.

But the findings, they said, could potentially reshape our understanding of the physical world.

"If this measurement is confirmed, it might change our view of physics," said CERN research director Sergio Bertolucci, a view echoed by several independent physicist contacted by AFP.

In the experiments, scientists blasted a beam producing billions upon billions of neutrinos from CERN, which straddles the French-Swiss border near Geneva, to the Gran Sasso Laboratory 730 kilometres (453 miles) away

in Italy.

Neutrinos are electrically neutral particles so small that only recently were they found to have mass.

Hugely abundant but hard to detect, these "ghost particles" are a by-product of nuclear fusion from stars, such as the Sun.

"The neutrinos arrived 60 nanoseconds earlier than the 2.3 milliseconds taken by light," Ereditato told AFP, adding that the margin or error was less than 10 nanoseconds.

Under Albert Einstein's theory of special relativity, however, a physical object cannot travel faster than the speed of light in a vacuum.

Even if verified, however, the new findings would not entirely invalidate Einstein's brilliant insights, which have held sway for more than a century.

"The theory of special relativity will still be a good theory if you apply it where it is valid, but there will have to be some extensions or modifications," he said.

Apple 'to unveil iPhone 5 on October 4'



(AFP)-- Apple plans to unveil its next generation iPhone next month, technology blog AllThingsD said.

AllThingsD cautioned that Apple could "change its plans anytime," but said the

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Facebook weaves in movies, music and news

(AFP)-- Facebook is packing movies, music, news and digital books into overhauled profile pages crafted to serve as online homes for members of the world's largest social network.

Major changes being rolled out in coming weeks will let members discover and share media content in real time while also artfully chronicling their lives.

Facebook on Thursday introduced a new class of "open graph" applications that let people discover and share music, movies, books and news as well as seemingly lightweight experiences like bicycle rides.

The applications will be integrated into overhauled "Timeline" profile pages that let people digitally map everything they've ever done.

"The heart of your Facebook experience, completely rethought from the ground up," Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg said while announcing the overhaul at

Facebook's annual f8 developers conference.

"Timeline is the story of your life."

The new applications will let members automatically allow chosen friends to see their news feeds without needing to click "Like" or "Share."

Digital music service Spotify will let Facebook users see what friends are listening to at any moment in "Ticker" real-time feeds and then click to listen along. The same principle will apply to computer or mobile gadget applications and the feature will extend to digital books, news, and films.

"Now, you don't just have to 'Like' a book, you can read it," Spotify chief content officer Ken Parks told AFP. "You can connect to anything you want; it's simple but it is really powerful."

Zuckerberg demonstrated the Timeline by showing how his new profile page brought together everything from baby photos to pictures from his meeting with US President Barack Obama in April.

"The biggest challenge was to tell the story of your life in a single page," Zuckerberg said.

"What Timeline does is

show all the recent activity and then, as you go back in time, it starts summarizing the things you've done in your life."

Facebook has no plans for an "app store" along the lines of the one run by Apple at its online iTunes shop. Instead, it will leave it to members to spread media sharing applications.

People will need to install third party applications to share snippets in Timeline profile pages, which will feature privacy controls. Applications will also require people to set data sharing "permissions" before they are used.

Facebook said it has worked with privacy groups while developing Timeline and that it has made it simple and clear to control what information gets shared with whom.

Facebook users this week had complained about a barrage of recent updates intended to make it easier to manage the torrents of updates from friends.

Palo Alto, California-based Facebook hit a new milestone this month with a half-billion people using the social network in a single day, according to Zuckerberg.

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Health & Living

Obese now outnumber hungry, says Red Cross



NEW DELHI (AFP) - Obese people now outnumber the hungry globally, but hardship for the undernourished is increasing amid a growing food crisis, the International Federation of the Red Cross warned Thursday.

The Geneva-based humanitarian group focused on nutrition in its annual World Disasters Report, released in New Delhi, seeking to highlight the disparity between rich and poor, as well problems caused by a recent spike in prices.

In statistics used to underline the unequal access to food, the IFRC stressed there were 1.5 billion people suffering obesity worldwide last year, while 925 million were undernourished.

"If the free interplay of market forces has produced an outcome where 15 percent of humanity are hungry while 20 percent are overweight, something has gone wrong somewhere," secretary general Bekele Geleta said in a statement.

Asia-Pacific director Jagan Chapagain called it a "double-edged scandal" at a press conference in the Indian capital, adding that "excess nutrition

now kills more than hunger."

The problem of hunger existed not because there was a lack of food globally, he stressed, but because of poor distribution, wastage and rising prices that made food unaffordable.

Food prices have spiked globally in 2011, raising fears of a re-run of the crisis seen in

2008 which led to riots and political instability in many countries.

The rise in food prices, which the IFRC blamed on speculative commodity trading and climate change, among other factors, is seen as having contributed to the unrest witnessed in north Africa and the Middle East this year.

"A new round of food inflation... is plunging many of the world's poorest people into deeper poverty and situations of severe hunger and malnourishment," the organisation said.

The World Disasters Report is an annual publication by the group seeking to highlight an area of global concern. Last year's study focused on urbanisation, while 2009's was on HIV and health.

Europeans tighten law on teeth whitening products

(AFP) - While Americans whiten their teeth at a kiosk in a shopping mall, Europeans are facing tougher restrictions to get their smiles pearly white.

On September 20, the European Commission announced new regulations -- four years in the making -- clamping down on teeth whitening kits, including strips, gels, and trays containing higher concentrations of hydrogen peroxide.

Whitening products over 0.1 percent and less than 6 percent hydrogen peroxide now will only be available to

patients following an examination and an initial treatment session carried out by a dentist. Products containing more than 6 percent are deemed illegal.

The rationale behind the move is consumer safety, noted Dr. Stuart Johnston, chair of the British Dental Association, in a statement: "This long-awaited decision is good for dentists and their patients. It puts patient safety first by recognising the importance of examination by a dentist before whitening treatments are provided."

New Haiti cholera cases halved: UN

GENEVA, (AFP) - The number of new cholera cases in Haiti has halved in the past two months but an upcoming rainy season may lead to a resurgence, the UN's humanitarian office said Friday.

"There were 20,093 new cholera cases in August compared to 40,873 in July," Elisabeth Byrs, spokeswoman for the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, said.

"But the situation remains fragile ... With the rainy season about to start, there could be a resurgence" of cases, she added.

A spokesman for the World Health Organisation said that although it was un-

clear what was responsible for the decrease, improvements in sanitary conditions could be the cause.

Cholera is rare in Haiti -- an outbreak in 2010 was the first in more than a century -- and came as a surprise to country health officials.

In a statement, OCHA added that if current trends continued, the number of new cholera cases is expected to reach 75,000 in 2011.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said in June UN peacekeepers from Nepal brought the strain of cholera to Haiti responsible for an epidemic that has killed more than 5,000 people.

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LARRY'S FINE JEWELRY



Flowrider Aruba presents: *Misses will flow*



MISSSES WILL FLOW!

FLOWRIDER

Lucianette Verhoeks
Patrisia Koolman
Joselena Tromp
Ancheska Kock
Ryenne Bowers
Erialda Croes
Liza Helder

**SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 25th 2011
4:00 PM**

Come and meet your favorite
Miss in person!

Gillain Berry

**Miss
ARUBA**

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WWW.FLOWRIDERARUBA.COM

This Sunday, September 25, 2011, Flowrider Aruba will have the honor to receive Miss Aruba 2011 Gillain Berry and the seven candidates for Miss Aruba 2012. The participants are: Lucianette Verhoeks, Patrisia Koolman, Joselena Tromp, Ancheska Kock, Ryenne Bowers, Erialda Croes and, Liza Helder. This will be another Mega-Sport event, this time with the presence of Aruba's most beautiful candidates to become a Queen. The visit will be at Palm Beach Plaza Mall, from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Misses will be ready to receive all their fans, and be really close to them, taking pictures, signing autograph and having a great time at The FlowRider with everyone who dare to Flow with all these beauties.

Visit the Mario Hernandez shop for the finest in Latin American designer accessories

"It's all in the details," believes the owners of the Mario Hernandez shop in the Paseo Herencia Mall "The fine handcraftsmanship and classic styling of the Mario Hernandez accessories have placed them in high demand around the world, and we are proud to have the only MH store on Aruba."

The cozy little shop can be found tucked away just across from The Cinemas ticket booth, featuring fine quality leather goods with a trendy touch, the best of the current Mario Hernandez designer collection. It also features a stylish selection of the designer's logo unisex shirts and stunning silk scarves. Our personal favorite was a cashmere shawl with MH 25th anniversary Chrysalis motif in suede appliques; the look and feel of it is simply gorgeous. Shawls and scarves perfectly combine with the buttery leather handbags and accessories for an ensemble fashion statement.

The Mario Hernandez collection encompasses luggage,



Cashmir shawl with suede fringe and applique



Men's leather accessories



MH collection with art by William DeBilzan

handbags and wallets of every sort, with specialized functions. "Our men's accessories are extremely popular; literally flying off the shelves," note the owners. In the two years since they opened their doors, they have found patrons are very impressed with the quality and style of the goods.

Just a short time ago, the design house created an extremely attractive new line featuring the art of William DeBilzan, noted American artist whose work is often seen adorning the chic homes of television characters; he

has popular galleries in both Florida and California and his work is exhibited in over 28 galleries across the U.S. and Europe.

Mario Hernandez has been creating and designing products for over 30 years; his name is synonymous with manufacturing excellence and innovation in design. The store in Paseo Herencia Mall in Palm Beach is open until 10:00 PM for convenient night-time shopping and boasts the latest collection of these timelessly styled accessories, each of them handcrafted at the Bogotá factory.



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Mr. and Mrs. Teschke honored as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba



Recently were honored as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba Mr. Robert and Mrs. Carol Teschke from Naples, Florida. The symbolic honorary title was presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10 or more consecutive years. Mr. and Mrs. Teschke are members of the Marriott Ocean Club and are so much in love with our beautiful Aruba. The certificate was presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority in presence of Mrs. Gail, Marriott Ocean Club associate.

Celebration of the Int'l. Housekeeping Week 2011

Manchebo recognizes tremendous contributions of the Housekeeping team!



During the International Housekeeping Week which took place from 11-18 September 2011, a completion of 7 days of recognition and appreciation of housekeepers at Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa was achieved with success.

It was a pleasant and educative week for the housekeepers, since they enjoyed their yearly domino event, went on a bowling spree, attended interesting guest lectures and received a lot of gifts, appreciation roses and certificates. The week started with a Holy Mass and the handing out of an appreciation flower.

Dr. Croes visited the property on Tuesday, September 13th in order to inform about alternative ways of medication, and explained a lot about hazardous food with the accompanying healthy alternatives in order to improve our quality of life. Manchebo welcomed guest speakers from the FAVI 'Fundacion Aruban di esnan Visualmente Incapacita' who gave a memorable presentation about the organisation and all the great efforts they do

for humanity. Personal development coach Belquis Moreu explained Manchebo's associates during a guest lecture what it takes to "Create a Positive Mindset", because one needs to avoid that circumstances overpower the strength in decision making; several experiences will form a person.

During the week a Domino tournament was organized, which is a tradition for the housekeepers together with the Maintenance department. The Management of Manchebo offered a three-course dinner in the French Steakhouse as well in order to show their appreciation for a job well done.

Housekeepers have essential roles in achieving and maintaining guest satisfaction; therefore the Management of Manchebo gratefully appreciates their hard work and professionalism throughout the year. Nothing is more satisfying for a guest to arrive in a Clean, Comfortable and Organized guest room and along with that to see a satisfied expression on the housekeeper's face!



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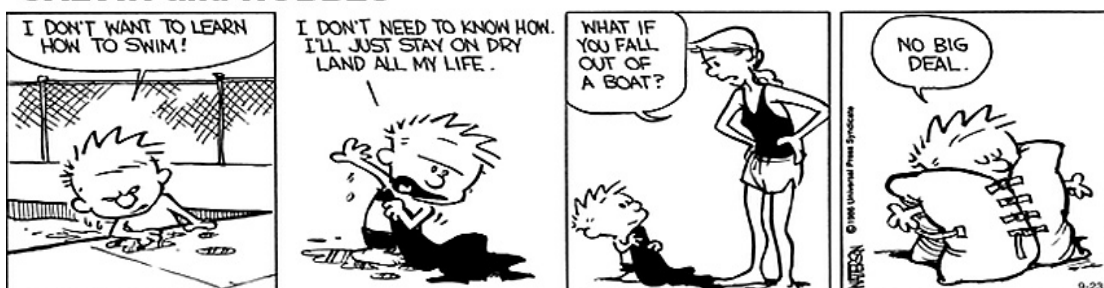
PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



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THE PLOT THICKENS

ACROSS

1. "M*A*S*H" role
6. "The Naked ___"
9. Feature of an i
12. Clarence's accuser
13. Is able to
14. Wrath
15. Vermont's highest mount
17. Kalahari group
18. Salamander
19. Sinew
21. Settings
25. Fowl spot
26. ___ Jima
27. Moa's kin
28. Stuff in la mer

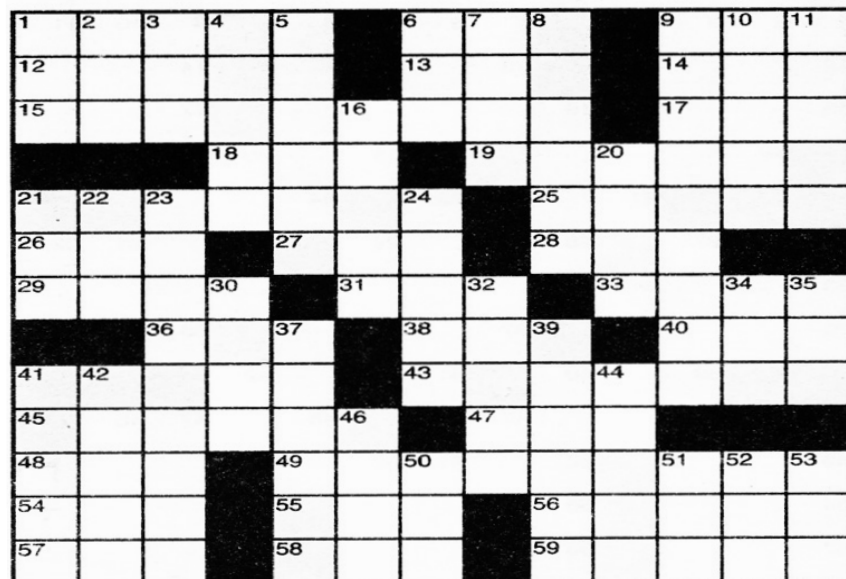
29. Young prune
31. Bath or Baden-Baden
33. Jab
36. Chinese appetizer serving
38. Snap, Crackle, or Pop
40. Haul into court
41. Sanskrit word for "thread"
43. Maureen Dowd's audience
45. "Paper Moon" stars
47. Actor Gulager
48. Five-dollar bill
49. Go over old ground

54. Wolfed down
55. Olympian gymnast Takashi
56. "___ Pook's Comeek" (Lynda Barry)
57. Alejandro or Fernando
58. Trouble
59. Travis or Newman

DOWN

1. Farm papa
2. Literary scraps
3. "Gunga ___"
4. Lost
5. Money-making scheme

6. Becker boomer
7. Chiromancer's reading material
8. Tolerate
9. Enlightened debate
10. Verbal exams
11. Ism
16. Agenda units
20. Certain cake
21. Start for service or stick
22. Pussycat's friend
23. She was TV's Monica
24. "Great!"
30. Oscar-winning actress Sorvino
32. Smart-___
34. Yours and mine
35. Author Pamela ___ Barres
37. Stallone, in six films
39. Lose conviction
41. Heretofore
42. Emulate East and West
44. Indian millet
46. ___ dollar
50. Cote sound
51. True-crime author Rule
52. El ___ (Spanish hero)
53. Vital



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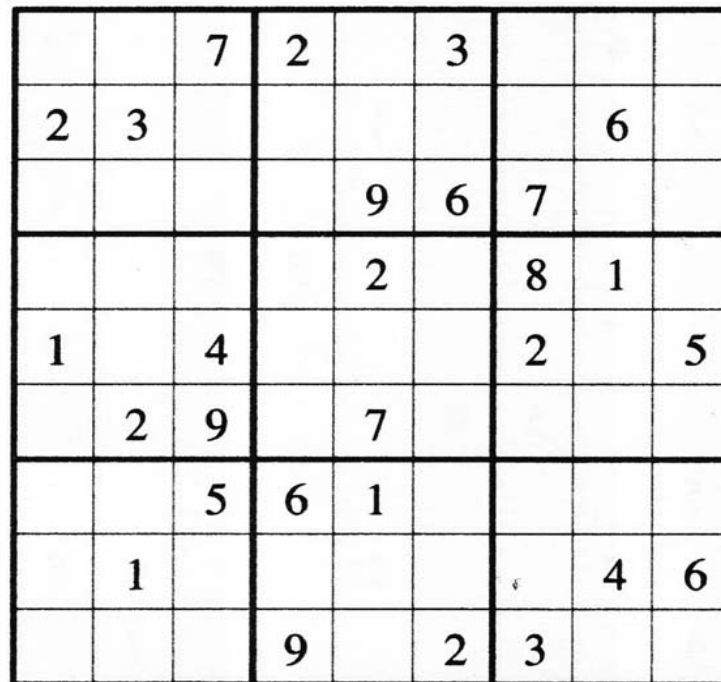
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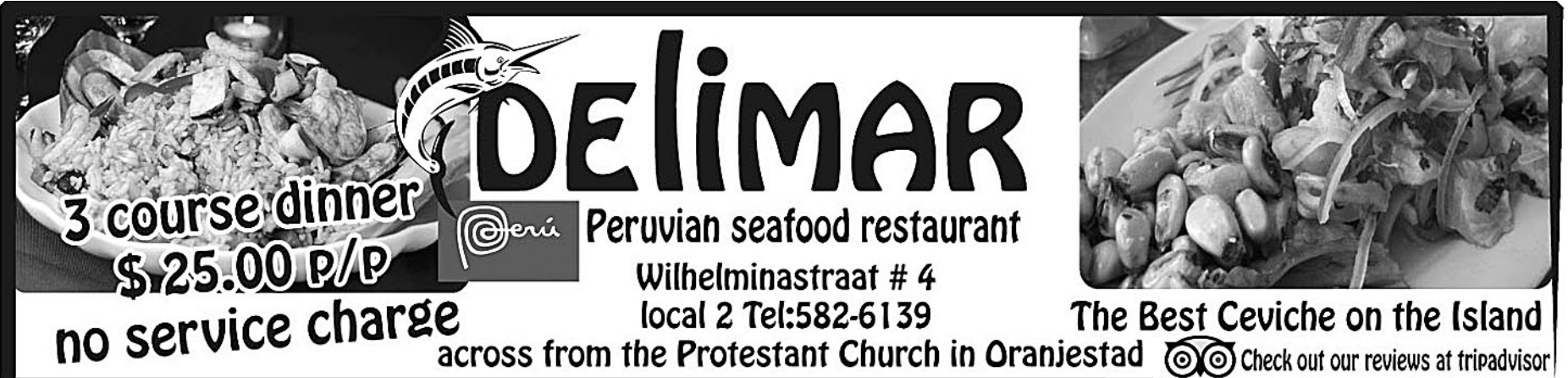
Sudoku



SOLUTION

1	8	5	2	5	6	9	7	1
9	7	5	1	8	2	1	6	3
2	3	6	7	1	9	5	8	4
7	8	9	1	2	5	6	2	8
5	6	2	8	9	1	7	1	1
1	1	8	6	2	7	1	9	5
8	2	1	9	6	1	8	5	7
6	9	7	5	8	1	1	1	2
8	5	1	1	7	2	1	6	9

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance

World may see 'collapse of demand': Lagarde

WASHINGTON, (AFP) - International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde warned Friday that the world could see demand evaporate if the United States and Europe fail to put their ailing economies back on track.

"There are dark clouds over Europe and there is huge uncertainty in the United States and, with that, we could risk the collapse in global demand," Lagarde said.

Lagarde, a former French finance minister and, since her appointment in July, the first woman to head the IMF, called on the Fund's 187 member nations to put economic growth and job creation at the top of their priorities.

But she warned that downside risks on the horizon were "piling up."

Those risks were being driven by a negative feedback loop between weak growth,

weak balance sheets of sovereigns, banks, and households and "what is very much perceived as inefficient political commitment," particularly by the markets, she said.

She recalled that the international community had acted together to face the 2008 financial crisis.

"We need to act now and we need to act together," she said. "Our problems can be largely economic, but the solutions are essentially political solutions."

Lagarde singled out the United States and Europe as primarily responsible for the current crisis.

The United States, the world's largest economy, needs to reduce its fiscal deficit, reduce high unemployment and help relieve pressure on overly indebted households, she said.

Europe, in the throes of the eurozone debt crisis, must deal

urgently with the "twin problems" of sovereign debt and bank debt.

She acknowledged the delicate balance of correcting deep fiscal deficits in Europe, the United States and Japan while trying to maintain growth.

Lagarde emphasized the role of the IMF, which provides analysis and lending to member countries, as a facilitator in the global economic dialogue.

"My hope is that on the occasion of this annual meeting... we actually come together sufficiently to establish a common diagnosis to agree on a set of priority policies that you will feel comfortable -- with the strength of us all -- taking back home, to your leaders and heads of government, to actually pave a path to decision making and a path to recovery."

Indian rupee rises on suspected intervention

MUMBAI, (AFP) - India's rupee firmed from a 28-month-low against the dollar on Friday amid reports the central bank intervened in the foreign exchange market to prop up the ailing currency, traders said.

The central bank was believed to have stepped in to the

market after the Indian currency hit 49.9 rupees to the dollar, a level last seen in May 2009, as investors sought a safe haven in the US unit.

The central bank intervention was believed to "have helped the rupee recover" from its low, a dealer at a Mumbai-based trading house said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

A spokesman for the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) told AFP that the bank, as a policy, does not comment on rupee

movements.

The Indian unit strengthened to 49.09 rupees after the reported intervention but then lost ground again and was trading late Friday at 49.47 rupees to the dollar.

The rupee's fall is fuelling India's inflationary woes, making imported goods such as foreign crude oil, on which the country relies, more costly.

India's annual inflation is running at near double-digits and is the highest among major global economies.

EU hints at 2014 target for financial transactions tax

BRUSSELS, (AFP) - The European Commission hinted on Friday that it may propose a tax on financial transactions across the European Union that could come into force as soon as 2014, earlier than anticipated.

Asked during a news briefing about a planned introduction of the tax in three years, taxation affairs spokesman David Boubilil said it was a "reasonable estimate" of the preferred date, whereas 2018 had previously been floated as realistic.

The European Union's executive will table legislative proposals in the coming weeks, he said.

Brussels wants this tax to provide direct income for the EU, rather than relying almost exclusively, as at present, on contributions to its 130-billion-euro-plus annual budget

from member states.

The tax plan has picked up fresh momentum since German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Nicolas Sarkozy agreed to support the idea's development in August.

However, non-euro states Britain and Sweden have made known their opposition -- as have international partners such as the United States and other G7 members.

The head of the French stock exchange regulator, Jean-Pierre Jouyet, said he was supportive in principle of introducing the tax, but warned: "You have to choose your moment."

He said a tax too soon would exacerbate rivalries between European and trans-Atlantic bases for the financial services industry.

US stocks end week with \$1tn loss

NEW YORK, (AFP) - An estimated \$1 trillion was wiped off the value of US stocks this week, amid heightened fears that the world economy is heading for another recession.

After a string of warnings that Europe and the United States must do more to put their economies in order, the Federal Reserve on Wednesday provided the straw that broke the market's back.

The bank's warning, that there are "significant downside risks to the economic outlook," sent stocks into a tailspin with the Dow Jones industrial average losing nearly 800 points over the next 24 hours.

By the end of Thursday an

estimated \$103 billion had been wiped off the value of that 30-member index.

But the sea of red did not end with the blue chips.

According to figures from the Wilshire 5000, the broadest index available for the US equity market, around \$1 trillion was lost during the week.

That made it the second worst week since October 2008 -- the height of the financial crisis.

Stocks eventually halted their downward slide on Friday, with the Dow ending the day just above the break-even mark despite ongoing gloom about the state of the global economy.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

A	P	I	S	L	A	M	B	S	P	A
L	E	S	T	A	L	E	E	P	E	N
G	R	E	A	T	W	A	L	L	E	D
M	E	M	O	S	L	E	E	P	Y	
P	R	O	M	E	R	N				
J	I	B	S	L	E	W	I	D	E	A
F	O	R	B	I	D	D	E	N	C	I
K	N	E	E	S	I	D	E	D	E	E
A	S	P	A	S	H	Y				
W	E	T	T	E	R	R	U	S	H	
R	A	H	C	O	N	F	U	C	I	U
A	V	E	O	P	A	L	C	A	G	E
P	E	R	S	E	T	A	A	M	E	N

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Buster's Garage in South Beach Center for snacking, sports events and fun!



Buster's Garage, a New York City landmark, made its way to Aruba about a year ago, and found a new home at the South Beach Center across from the Radisson Resort. Dedicated to

the sports fanatic, the spacious but homey interior is the perfect place to keep up with your favorite team and have a great meal.

Fun for all the family, Buster's has typical sport bar fare such as chicken wings, quesadillas, calamari rings for munching while watching the main event on 24 giant plasma screens. Every seat is good seat for catching all the action. Open from noon for lunch or dinner, it has plenty of distractions for the younger crowd, including foosball, and a video arcade, so Mom and Dad can relax and enjoy their meal.

The moderately priced menu includes all your favorite finger foods and a great selection of local and imported beers. Customer reviews gave Buster's Garage 4.5 stars out of 5 on yellowpages-aruba.com; one declared "my wife and I happened to stumble upon it - but what a find!" Another stated "Owner Rusty is so down to earth. The food was very good and the prices were outstanding for the High-Rise area. Aruba needed a place like this."

Buster's regularly organizes special events with live music. At 10 p.m. it turns into a cozy adult hangout; 18 years and over only allowed, with a DJ on duty nightly and boasting the only beerpong table on Aruba. Aside from a great place to root for the home team or your favorites during play-offs and championships, they regularly carry all UFC fights & WWE events.

Buster's is a great place where island visitors and residents mix and mingle; Monday to Thursday they close at 2:00 a.m., weekends at 4:00 a.m.

Parents Guide to Skin Protection



It's important to protect your children's skin from the damaging effects of the sun. No matter what they're doing or what time of year it is, if they are outdoors, they need to be protected.

Aruba is one of the places in the world where the sun is the strongest. Located only 12.5 degrees north of the equator, the sun shines with maximum strength and penetrates the atmosphere with a maximum amount of UV rays. What most people don't know on water and sand, which means that even in the shade you need protection.

Protecting the skin from the sun during childhood and adolescence is important in reducing cancer risks later in life. By building safe sun habits into your family's daily routine, you will make your children understand and get used to being protected against the sun and they will become more aware of the harmful effects it can have to their skin. Parents should take the lead by giving the good example; children will respond better when they see their parents protecting their skin as well.

Important recommendations:

- Wear protective clothing when out in the sun. Choose shirts and slacks made of tightly woven fabrics that you can't see through when held up to light.

- Cover up with Hats. Choose hats that shade your child's face, neck and ears.

- Apply Sunscreen every day on skin that is not protected by clothing or a hat. Choose a sunscreen with a high Sun Protection Factor (SPF) such as Aruba Aloe's Waterproof SPF 30 sunscreen for maximum protection. For babies and children under 2 years old, make sure to use a special sunscreen that gives extra protection for the sensitive skin such as "Waterproof Babies SPF 30" from Aruba Aloe. Remember to reapply after swimming, sweating or toweling dry if you use a sun-

screen that is not waterproof.

- Use sunscreen even on hazy or overcast days.

- Keep an extra bottle of sunscreen in the car.

- Pack a bottle of sunscreen in your child's bag.

- Use Sunglasses that block UV rays and protect the eyes and the surrounding tender skin.



- Play in the Shade. The sun's rays are generally strongest from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. If your children are outdoors, make sure their skin is protected.

- Teach your children the shadow rule. When outside, if your shadow is shorter than you are, it means that the sun is high in the sky and the UV rays are most intense.

- Protect children younger than 6 months of age with clothing and keep them in the shade.

For more advice on how to best protect your and your children's skin against the sun, please call Aruba Aloe: 588-3222 or visit the website www.ArubaAloe.com

Aruba Aloe products are available at most hotels, supermarkets, pharmacies and the Aruba Aloe Stores.

Moschino matadors take to Milan catwalks



MILAN (AFP) - Bullfighter and flamenco dancer outfits took to the catwalks Friday for the latest Moschino collection at Milan Fashion Week, while Antonio Marras brought out designs of maids dressed up as mistresses.

The Moschino designs featured distinctive matador jackets in cream, black and gold that were stitched with heart shapes and embroidery, as well as long billowing lace skirts on models topped by elaborate Spanish-style fasciators.

Dominant themes were the juxtaposition of black and gold colours, as well as the



purity of the white beachwear outfits, giving the spring-summer 2012 collection a retro film quality that has been a feature of the Milan shows.

The ever-original Marras also dug into the past for a collection inspired by French playwright Jean Genet's 1947 play "The Maids" in which two housemaids engage in sadomasochist games imitating the maid-mistress power divide.

The show began with a phone ringing and a voice from the film version of the play saying: "It's my turn to be Madame!" as models



showed off outfits resembling maid uniforms adapted to look like the get-ups of bourgeois ladies.

Pleated skirts -- a trend for next year emerging at Milan Fashion Week -- were one of the highlights of the collection, as well as cream dresses with black and red flower patterns resembling Japanese woodblock prints.

Green skirts, trousers and belts also featured heavily in the show, which concluded to enthusiastic applause with Edith Piaf's "Non, je ne regrette rien" as screens lifted to reveal models posed like mannequins in a showroom.

True story of Florida dolphin inspired Hollywood film



CLEARWATER (AFP) - The injured dolphin washed up on the Florida shoreline in 2005, barely alive and given slim chances of surviving.

Its flesh had been torn open by a fishing net, inflicting injuries so severe that the animal had to have its tail amputated.

The story of the animal's eventual survival provided the inspiration for a new movie out this weekend, the kid flick "Dolphin Tale," which critics have praised as sterling family entertainment and one of the year's best feel-good movies.

The film is based on the story of a dolphin named Win-

ter who lives at an aquarium here, and its convalescence at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium after its near-fatal encounter with a crabbing net.

The movie's script closely follows the same plot line. In "Dolphin Tale" the animal, just a few months old, is rescued by a young boy named Sawyer and an altruistic doctor who saves its life.

After her tail was amputated, Winter's caregivers come up with the ingenious idea of outfitting the animal with a cutting-edge prosthetic tail that allows her to swim normally.

Sawyer gets the idea for

Winter's prosthetic tale after an encounter with his wounded soldier-cousin who recently has returned home from combat and has to be fitted with an artificial limb.

Winter's real life caregivers in Florida said part of the challenge was to create a tail that was durable yet also supple and pliant, because the injured bottlenose dolphin did not tolerate rigid materials against its sensitive body.

The experts after trial and error created a sleeve from a sticky gel composite that slips down onto Winter's stump and creates suction when the prosthetic appendage is applied.

And as in the movie, Winter's recovery has been nothing short of astonishing.

"Dolphin Tale," the heir to those movies, has its release this weekend across the United States, and early reviews have been glowing.

The A-list cast includes Ashley Judd, Kris Kristofferson, Harry Connick Jr and Morgan Freeman, who said he gravitated to the part because the movie represented good old fashioned entertainment.

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STARRING: Adam Steinfeld

WHAT: Comedy Magic, Grand Illusion show.

LOCATION: Westin Resort & Casino Aruba

THEATER OPENS: 8:30PM

BOX OFFICE OPENS: 8:00PM

COST: \$20 (under 15), \$40 adult / LOCALS: Afl. 40

TICKETS: at the theater door

GROUP SALES: (297) 561-1090

WestinAruba.com/magic

MagicLive.com

MagicOnTheBeach.com



A copy of the book "Julian Assange: The Unauthorised Autobiography" is pictured in a store in central London. WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange denounced an unauthorised autobiography as it hit bookshops in Britain after he failed to prevent the publisher printing an unfinished manuscript. British publisher Canongate said the book was a first draft delivered to them in March. They admitted Assange had tried to stop its publication, but said they were proud to publish the "passionate, provocative and opinionated" book.

AFP PHOTO

#

2010 - 2011

1st

Happy Anniversary

Saturday September 24th



ARUBA

Palm Beach Plaza Mall

Outrage, apology follows NHL banana toss

NEW YORK (AFP) - National Hockey League commissioner Gary Bettman said Friday that the tossing of a banana at a black player during a pre-season exhibition game Thursday night in Canada was "stupid and ignorant."

The incident came during a game-ending shootout at London, Ontario, when Philadelphia Flyers right wing Wayne Simmonds, who is black, was skating toward Detroit Red Wings goaltender Jordan Pearce.

Simmonds, who had scored in the final minute of regulation time to level the game at 3-3, scored in the shootout as well but the Red Wings won the shootout to take the game 4-3.

"We have millions of great fans who show tremendous respect for our players and for the game," Bettman said. "The obviously stupid and ig-

norant action by one individual is in no way representative of our fans or the people of London, Ontario."

"It shocked me and I knew I had to keep going and get a shot off," Simmonds said. "It was certainly unusual."

"I don't know if it had anything to do with the fact I'm black. I certainly hope not. When you're black, you kind of expect (racist) things. You learn to deal with it."

Joe Fontana, the mayor of London, apologized to Simmonds and the Flyers on behalf of the Canadian city.

"It was a stupid and mindless act by a single individual," Fontana said. "However, it reflects badly on our entire community. London is a diverse and welcoming city and we like it that way."

There were 7,427 spectators at the 9,100-seat home rink of a Canadian junior-league team.

Boxing probed over multi-million graft claims

LONDON (AFP) - The tarnished image of Olympic boxing faced fresh scrutiny on Friday over allegations that multi-million dollar bribes were paid to ensure fighters from Azerbaijan won gold medals at the 2012 Games in London.

An investigation by BBC's Newsnight programme alleged that \$9 million was paid by an Azeri national to organisers of the International Amateur Boxing Association (AIBA)'s World Series of Boxing (WSB).

The money was allegedly paid to secure gold medals for Azeri fighters competing at next year's Olympics.

AIBA president Wu Ching-Kuo rejected the allegations as "totally untrue and ludicrous."

"I will immediately conduct an investigation into this because there is a zero tolerance policy in AIBA," Wu said.

"Any corruption or manipulation is totally unacceptable. We have been cleaning the house for the last four years. I can guarantee you AIBA, like the other international federations, is fighting corruption."

Azerbaijan's boxing federation vice-president Agajan Abiyev on Friday blasted the allegations as "absurd".

"I think that the information was created by Azerbaijan's enemies," Abiyev said

in comments published on the Azerisport website.

The most notorious scandal involved Roy Jones, who was robbed of a gold medal at the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, when he lost a split decision to South Korea's Park Si-Hun despite out-punching his opponent 86-32.

A hugely embarrassed Park held up Jones' hand to acclaim the American as the rightful winner while the three judges who voted for the Korean were later suspended.

Scoring controversies also dogged boxing during the 2008 Beijing Games, where several fighters complained of being cheated by judges.

MLB Standings											
American League						National League					
East		W	L	Pct	GB	East		W	L	Pct	GB
Y- YANKEES		95	61	.609	--	Y-PHILADELPHIA		98	58	.628	--
BOSTON		88	68	.564	7.0	ATLANTA		88	68	.564	10.0
TAMPA		86	70	.551	9.0	WASHINGTON		76	79	.490	21.5
TORONTO		79	77	.506	16.0	NY METS		74	82	.474	24.0
BALTIMORE		66	90	.423	29.0	FLORIDA		71	85	.455	27.0
Central						Central					
Y - DETROIT		90	66	.577	--	MILWAUKEE (2)		91	65	.583	--
CLEVELAND		77	78	.497	12.5	ST. LOUIS		86	70	.551	5.5
CHICAGO		76	80	.487	14.0	CINCINNATI		76	80	.487	15.0
KANSAS		68	88	.436	22.0	PITTSBURG		69	87	.442	22.0
MINNESOTA		60	95	.387	29.5	CHICAGO		69	87	.442	22.0
West						West					
TEXAS (2)		90	66	.577	--	ARIZONA(1)		90	66	.577	--
LA ANGELES		85	71	.545	5.0	SAN FRANCISCO		84	72	.538	6.0
OAKLAND		70	86	.449	20.0	LA DODGERS		78	77	.503	11.5
SEATTLE		66	90	.423	24.0	COLORADO		70	88	.449	20.0
						SAN DIEGO		68	88	.436	22.0

x-Clinched Playoff Spot; **y**-Division Champ; **()** Magic Number for Division Championship

Magic Number: The magic number represents the combination of wins by the leading team and losses by the second-place (or tied) team that would clinch the division title.

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Owners postpone camps, cancel 43 pre-season games

NEW YORK (AFP) - The National Basketball Association said Friday it has postponed the start of training camps and canceled 43 pre-season games because club owners have not reached a new bargaining deal with players.

Owners locked out players July 1 after the expiration of their prior contract and talks over nearly three months have failed to break the deadlock over financial issues. A session Thursday ended with no new talks scheduled.

As a result, the entire 2011-2012 NBA season is in jeopardy of being wiped out, with the loss of games scheduled between October 9-15 the first step toward a possible loss of some or all regular-season contests.

"We have regretfully reached the point on the calendar where we are not able to open training camps on

time and need to cancel the first week of pre-season games," NBA deputy commissioner Adam Silver said.

Training camps were set to start on October 3 and given that no free agency period took place before the lockout, it is unlikely camps would be able to start with less than a week's notice once a deal is reached.

The NBA originally scheduled 114 pre-season games between October 9-28 ahead of a planned November 1 start to the season.

The wiping out of two weeks of activity follows a pattern the NBA used in its only prior shutdown in 1998, when a reduced season of 50 games per team was salvaged after a similar fight over how to divide revenues.

Team owners, who say only 8 of 30 clubs made money last season, want a firm salary cap rather than the current exception-filled sys-

tem and they want a high percentage of revenues, which slid to \$3.8 billion last season.

Players have offered a small reduction in the percentage of total basketball revenues that go to players, from 57 to 54 percent, but owners want more cuts and players have been steadfast in refusing any deal with a tight salary cap.

Many players have already made deals with clubs in Europe and China for next season, some of them without an opt-out clause to return to the NBA next season if the money feud ends.

No major stars have made such a jump but Italy's Virtus Bologna has reportedly offered Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant \$6.7 million to play in the upcoming campaign.

The pre-season schedule was to begin October 9 with five games, including the Lakers against Golden State, New Orleans at San Antonio, Utah at Portland, Memphis at Orlando and Minnesota at Detroit.

Drug cheat Ramirez retires from baseball



(AFP)-- Disgraced slugger Manny Ramirez's plans to play baseball in the Dominican Republic have been dashed because he decided to retire rather than serve a 100-game suspension for a failed drug test.

ESPN television reported Thursday that Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association have concluded Ramirez is ineligible to play in the Dominican Republic.

Dominican winter league team the Cibao Eagles said earlier this week that Ramirez was expected to start training with them soon. Ramirez played with the Eagles during the 1993-94 season.

The former World Series MVP Ramirez started the season with Tampa Bay but he abruptly announced in April he would retire rather than face a lengthy suspension for a second failed drug.

Ramirez served a 50-game ban two years ago after a positive test for human chorionic gonadotropin, a banned female fertility drug often used to mask performance-enhancing drug use.

The 39-year-old Ramirez was arrested last week and charged with battery following an alleged altercation with his wife in the bedroom of their Florida home.

Ramirez was the most valuable player of the 2004 World Series.

FIFA ban Iraq from hosting matches

BAGHDAD (AFP) - FIFA have barred Iraq from hosting football matches, including qualifiers for the upcoming Olympics and World Cup, until further notice, an Iraqi Football Association (IFA) official told AFP on Thursday.

Iraq had previously hosted games at the Francois Hariri Stadium in Arbil, most recently on September 2 when the hosts and 2007 Asian champions lost 2-0 to Jordan.

"We have received a message from FIFA that says that Iraqi football matches are not allowed from now on in Francois Hariri stadium, and they must be transferred out of the country to a place chosen by Iraq within 10 days," IFA Secretary Tareq Ahmed

told AFP.

Ahmed said the decision was taken by FIFA following the September 2 match due to the poor administration and organisation surrounding it.

In particular, the match was delayed for 10 minutes because of a power cut, and the stadium appeared to have significantly more spectators than its capacity of 12,400.

Arbil is the capital of the autonomous Iraqi region of Kurdistan, which is widely seen as much safer than the rest of the country.

Iraq are currently third in Group A of Asian qualifiers for the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, behind Jordan and China, but ahead of Singapore. They next play China in Shenzhen on October 11.



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